

Russian Orthodox Church
Port Heiden
Alaska

HABS No. AK-70A

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5-POHEI,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. MATRONA RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (OLD)

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- Location: Port Heiden, Alaska Peninsula, Alaska.
- Significance: Stripped of its ornament and distinguishing features, the old church at Port Heiden is a Russian Orthodox church in its very basic form. Nave and sanctuary are included in a simple wood-framed rectangle.
- Description: The wood-framed building was finished with wood shingles on the sides, board-and-batten siding on the east end, and diagonal planks on the west end. The gable roof was covered with wood shingles, now mostly gone. The main block of the church measured 15'-0" x 22'-6", and included the nave and sanctuary, separated by the iconostas. The 12'-7" x 17'-8" lower vestibule is on the west end. On the interior, the icons, iconostas, and finish materials have been removed. The church is in an extremely deteriorated condition.
- History: Port Heiden was founded in the 1920s, and the church probably dates from that time. The vestibule appears to have been built more recently. The church has been abandoned in favor of the new one (HABS No. AK-70-A).
- Historian: Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, 1990.